

High School Roundup

Football

■ The final score was 26-21 in favor of the host Stuart Raiders. But the most telling statistic in Saturday's National District high school game was turnovers. The Wakefield Warriors (1-8, 0-6) committed five, all on lost fumbles, and Stuart did not turn the ball over.

Stuart (2-7, 1-5) parlayed three second-half Wakefield fumbles into 16 second-half points as the Raiders rallied from a 21-7 deficit. Then, with two minutes remaining in the contest, Wakefield lost its final fumble on a first-and-goal situation when the Warriors were knocking on Stuart's door for the go-ahead touchdown at the Raiders' 5-yard line.

Stuart then ran out the clock to snap a four-year 16-game home losing streak and a four-year 22-game district losing skid. In addition, the two wins are the most in a season for Stuart since it finished 2-8 in the 1999 campaign. The Raiders did not win a game in 2001 or 2002. The 26 points Stuart scored are the most it tallied in a game since scoring 28 in a contest in 2000.

Unless Wakefield defeats Mount Vernon (6-3) this Friday night, the Warriors will finish 1-9 for the second straight season.

Both teams entered Saturday's contest with identical records and six-game losing streaks. Wakefield built a 21-7 lead thanks to a 63-yard touchdown run by Kenny James, a 75-yard scoring gallop by John Garner, a 60-yard TD pass from Garner to Deidrich Gilreath and three extra points by Andrew Walker.

In the second half, Stuart took the lead at 23-21 on a 10-yard third-quarter run by Billy Arnez. Chris Shrum kicked two field goals for Stuart of 33 and 42 yards.

Wakefield outgained Stuart in total yards, 326 to 172, but the Warriors couldn't overcome the turnovers.

Garner had 70 yards rushing for Wakefield and completed 3 of 8 passes for 112 yards. James had 63 yards rushing; Donnie Armstrong completed two passes for 50 yards and rushed for 34; Gilreath had two catches for 71 yards and Geoffrey Crawley two for 52.

On defense for Wakefield, Chris Edmunds had two sacks and Armstrong and Delonte Copeland were each involved in two tackles for losses.

For Stuart on defense, junior linebacker Daniel Lawson was involved in four tackles for losses,

including a sack, and Arnez and Jonathan Pourzal each had a sack. Pourzal had two short touchdown runs on offense and gained 40 yards rushing.

Stuart concludes the regular season this Friday night with a road game against Falls Church.

NOTE: This Friday night, when Wakefield hosts Mount Vernon, will mark the 200th-straight Warriors' game that Wakefield scorekeeper Frank Haddock has attended. Haddock has been Wakefield's scorekeeper for 20 years. Wakefield has had seven different head coaches during that stretch and has a 49-150 overall record during Haddock's tenure. Haddock is a 1986 Wakefield graduate. He is also Wakefield's announcer at home football games.

■ The Washington-Lee Generals (4-5, 2-4) were shut out by the visiting Falls Church Jaguars, 21-0, Friday night in a National District contest. The loss was the third straight for the Generals, who wrap up the regular season this Friday night with an away game against Arlington rival Yorktown. Washington-Lee has not defeated Yorktown since 1982.